

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SY-04

SCCT-02 OPR-02 A-01 AID-20 CCO-00 NIC-01 PM-07 NSC-07

SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 PRS-01 OMB-01 USSS-00 PC-04 DRC-01 /117 W

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O R 011202Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1799

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

USLO PEKING

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN, BT

SUBJECT: REPORT OF "PLOT" IN BHUTAN

1. AN INDIAN WIRE SERVICE REPORTED FROM BHUTAN JUNE 1 THAT AN OFFICIAL BHUTANESE GOVERNMENT BULLETIN HAS DESCRIBED A RECENT "PLOT" TO ASSISINATE THE KING AND BURN DOWN A GOVERNMENT BUILDING. A LARGE CATCH OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION, HAND GRANADES, AND POISON WERE SEIZED. SOME THIRTY PERSONS ERE ARRESTED INCLUNG THE DEPUTY HOME MINISTER. ACCORDING TO THE BULLETIN, THE PLOTTERS WERE WORKING WITH A DARJEELING BASED ORGANIZATION. INDIAN INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTIGATION. THE INDIAN WIRE SERVICE CHARACTERIZED THE PLOTTERS AS A "HANDFUL OF PRO-CHINESE TIBETAN SETTLERS," AND NOTED THAT

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF DETECTION OF THE PLOT CAME AS FOREIGN DIGNITARIES

INCLUDING THE CHINESE CHARGE IN INDIA BEGAN ARRIVING IN BHUTAN FOR THE CORONATION CELEBRATIONS.

2. THE BHUTANESE MISSION HERE TELLS US IT HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION ON THE "PLOT" FROM ITS GOVERNMENT. THE MISSION SAID THERE HAD EARLIER BEEN RUMORS OF EFFORTS BY TROUBLEMAKERS TO DELAY THE JUNE 2-4 CORONATION, BUT SO FAR AS THE MISSION KNEW THE CEREMONIES WOULD GO AHEAD AS EXPECTED. EMBASSY WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MISSIONS.

3. THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY DESK OFFICER FOR BHUTAN TOLD US HE HAD SEEN NO REPORT OF SUCH A "PLOT."

4. COMMENT: THERE WAS A BRIEF MENTION IN THE INDIAN PRESS A FEW WEEKS AGO OF THE ARREST OF A NUMBER OF TIBETANS IN BHUTAN. THE WIRE SERVICE REPORT SUMMARIZED ABOVE IS PROBABLY AN EMBROIDERY ON AN EARLIER INCIDENT--WITH AN ADDED ANTI-CHINESE TWIST. HOWEVER, WITH SOME FORTY FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES IN BHUTAN FOR THE CORONATION, PRESS STORIES ON THE "PLOT" COULD BE FILED TO THE US. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, AMBASSADOR AND MRS. MOYNIHAN ARE ATTENDING THE CORONATION ALONG WITH THE HEADS OF A DOZEN OR SO OTHER DELHI MISSIONS. THEIR SCHEDULE CALLS FOR THEM TO DRIVE TODAY, JUNE 1, FROM THE BORDER TOWN OF PHUNTSHOLING TO THE CAPITAL THIMPU.

5. FOR CALCUTTA: WE WOULD APPRECIATE A REPORT ON WHATEVER YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT THE "PLOT" FROM DATTA-RAY OR OTHER SOURCES.
SCHNEIDER

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